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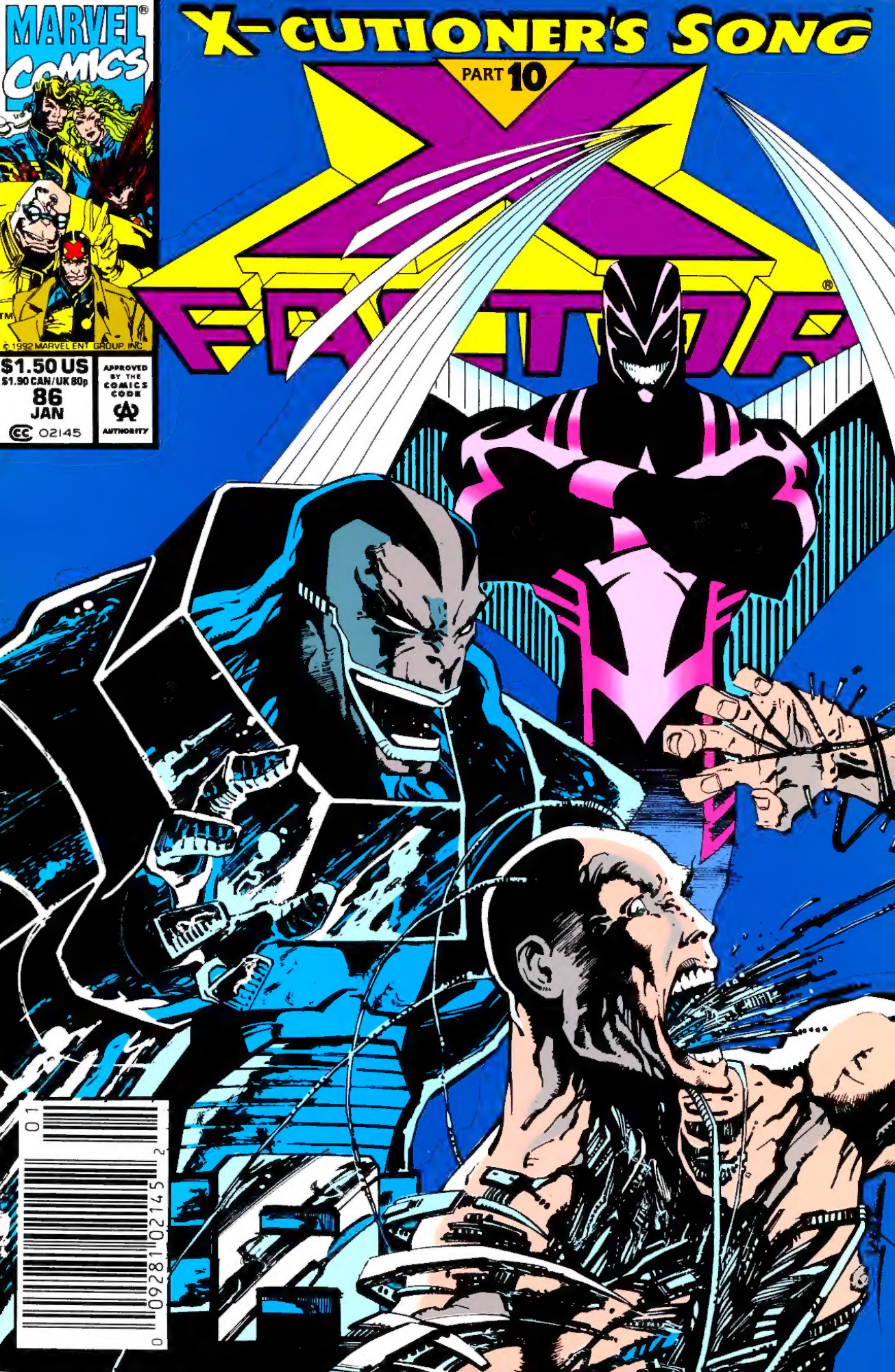
MARVEL COMICS
X-CUTIONER'S SONG
PART 10
X-FACTOR
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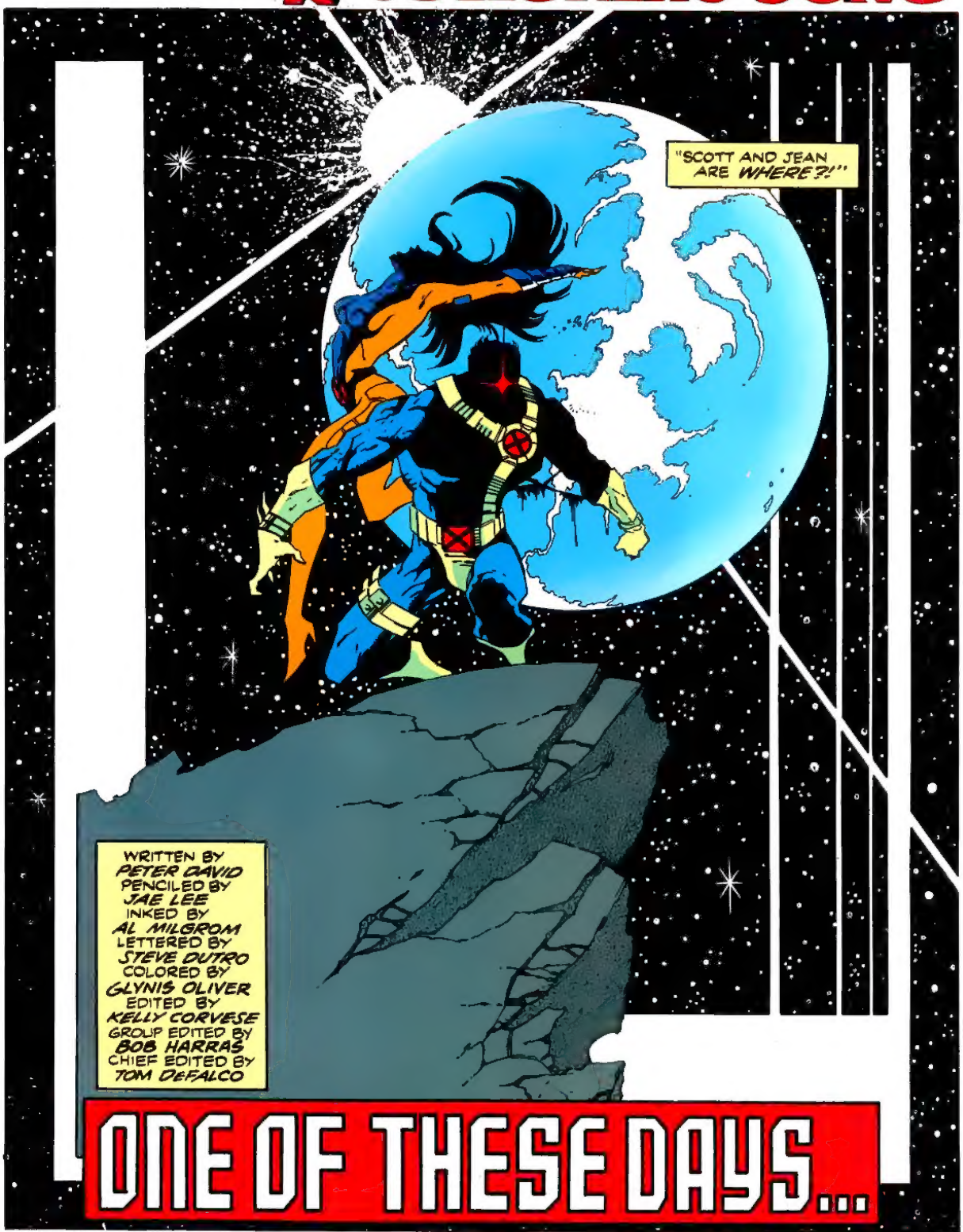
WHILE CYCLOPS AND JEAN GREY ESCAPE FROM THEIR CAPTOR, STRYFE, PROFESSOR XAVIER'S CONDITION WORSENS, AND THE X-MEN, X-FACTOR, AND X-FORCE ARE ABOUT TO TAKE THEIR BIGGEST LEAP OF FAITH BY ENTRUSTING THEIR MOST VAUNTED ENEMY, APOCALYPSE, TO SAVE THEIR MENTOR'S LIFE. STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

PART 10 X-CUTIONER'S SONG



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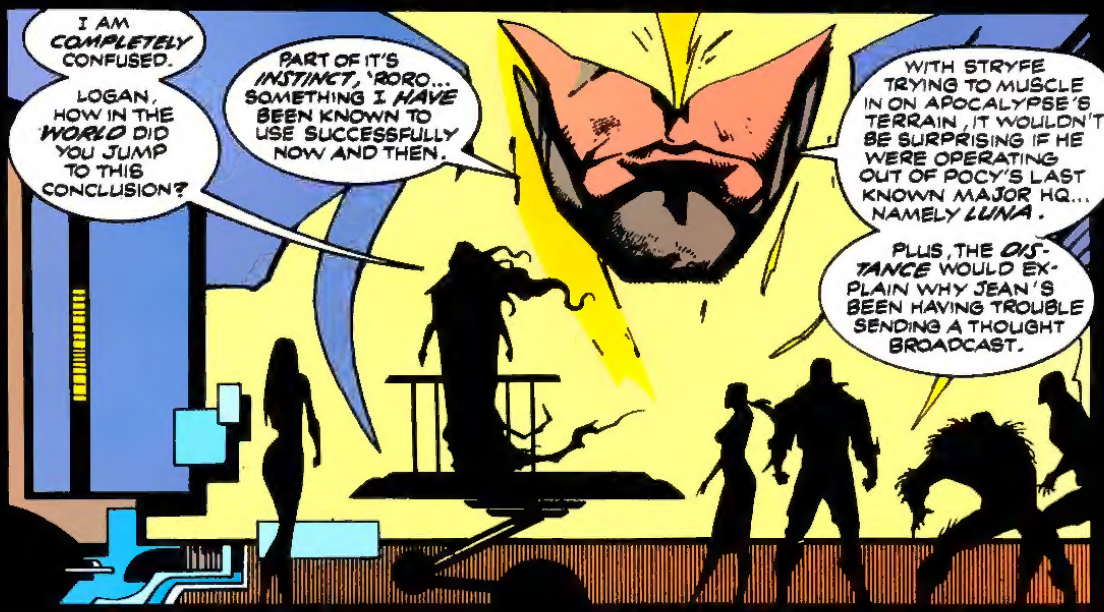
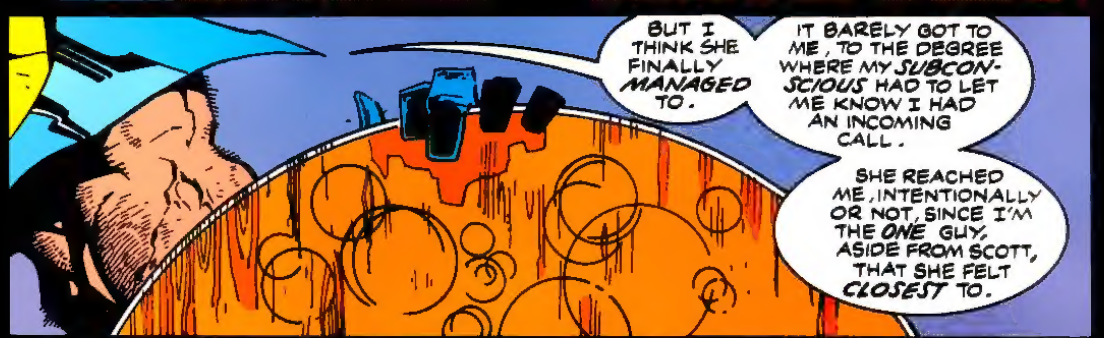
...POW! ZOOM!
FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, THEY ARE: THE BEAST, ICEMAN, POLARIS, ARCHANGEL, HANCOCK, VAL COOPER, STORM, PSYLOCKE.
WITH THE EXCEPTION OF VAL, THEY ARE MUTANTS. THEY ARE HOMO SUPERIOR. THEY ARE UNDER SIEGE. THEY ARE MEMBERS OF THE X-MEN AND X-FACTOR.
THEY ARE BELIEVERS IN THE DREAM OF THEIR DYING MENTOR CHARLES XAVIER, FRIENDS AND TEAMMATES OF THE MISSING JEAN GREY AND SCOTT SUMMERS.
BUT IF ANY SINGLE WORD COULD SUM UP THEIR ESSENCE, THEIR GOALS--EVERYTHING THAT MAKES THEM WHAT THEY ARE AT THIS VERY MOMENT--
--THEN THAT WORD WOULD DEFINITELY BE:
CONFUSED.
THEY'RE ON THE MOON!
I'M TELLING YOU, I'M POSITIVE. IT'S THE ONLY THING THAT MAKES SENSE.
WELL, OF COURSE. THEY COULD BE ANYWHERE. SO NATURALLY, THEY'RE ON A SPHERE OF AIRLESS ROCK. MAKES PERFECT SENSE. LOGAN, YOU'RE RIGHT.

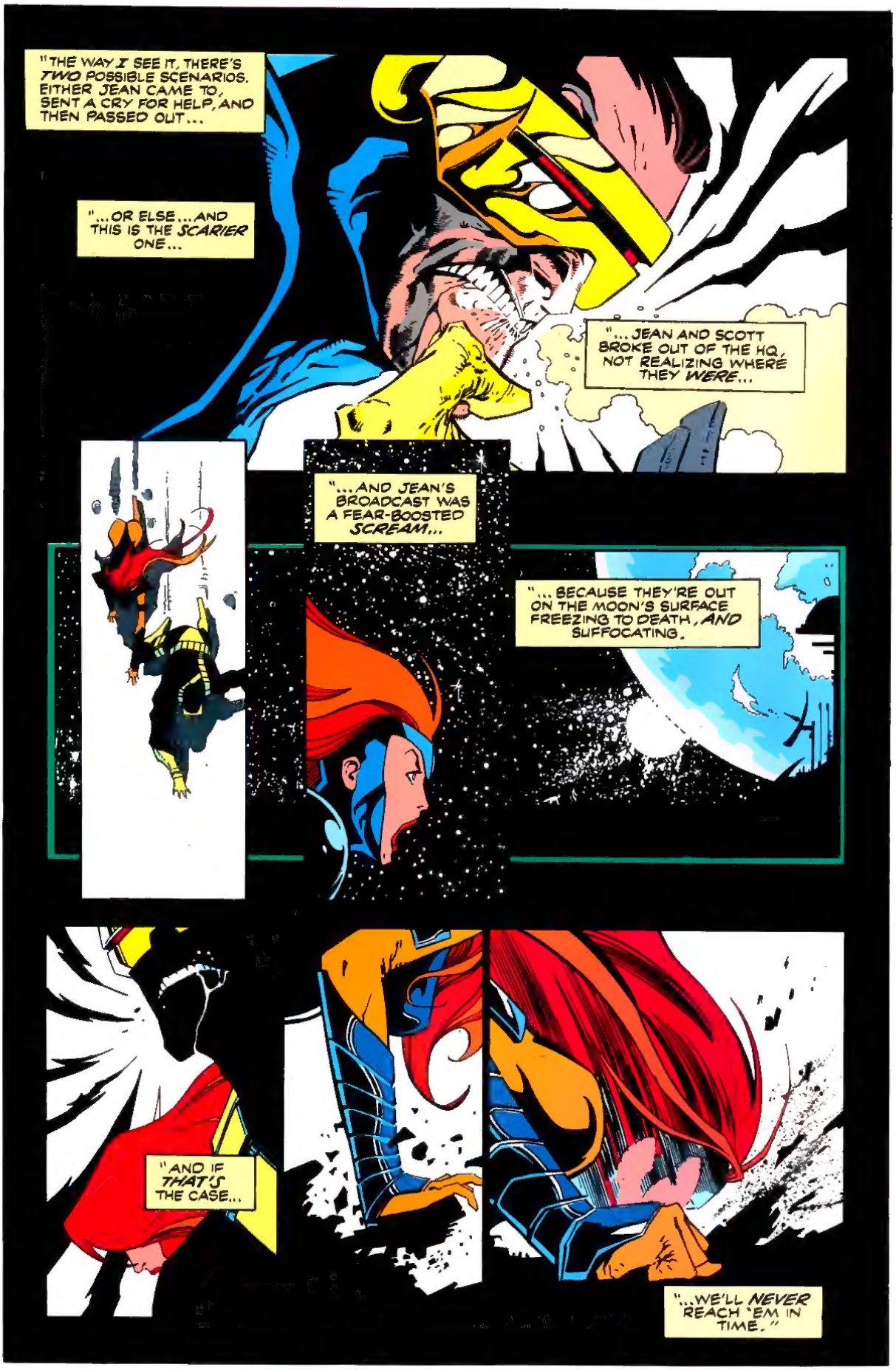

I AM COMPLETELY CONFUSED.
LOGAN, HOW IN THE WORLD DID YOU JUMP TO THIS CONCLUSION?
PART OF IT'S INSTINCT, 'RORO... SOMETHING I HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO USE SUCCESSFULLY NOW AND THEN.
WITH STRYFE TRYING TO MUSCLE IN ON APOCALYPSE'S TERRAIN, IT WOULDN'T BE SURPRISING IF HE WERE OPERATING OUT OF POCY'S LAST KNOWN MAJOR HQ... NAMELY LUNA.
PLUS, THE DISTANCE WOULD EXPLAIN WHY JEAN'S BEEN HAVING TROUBLE SENDING A THOUGHT BROADCAST.

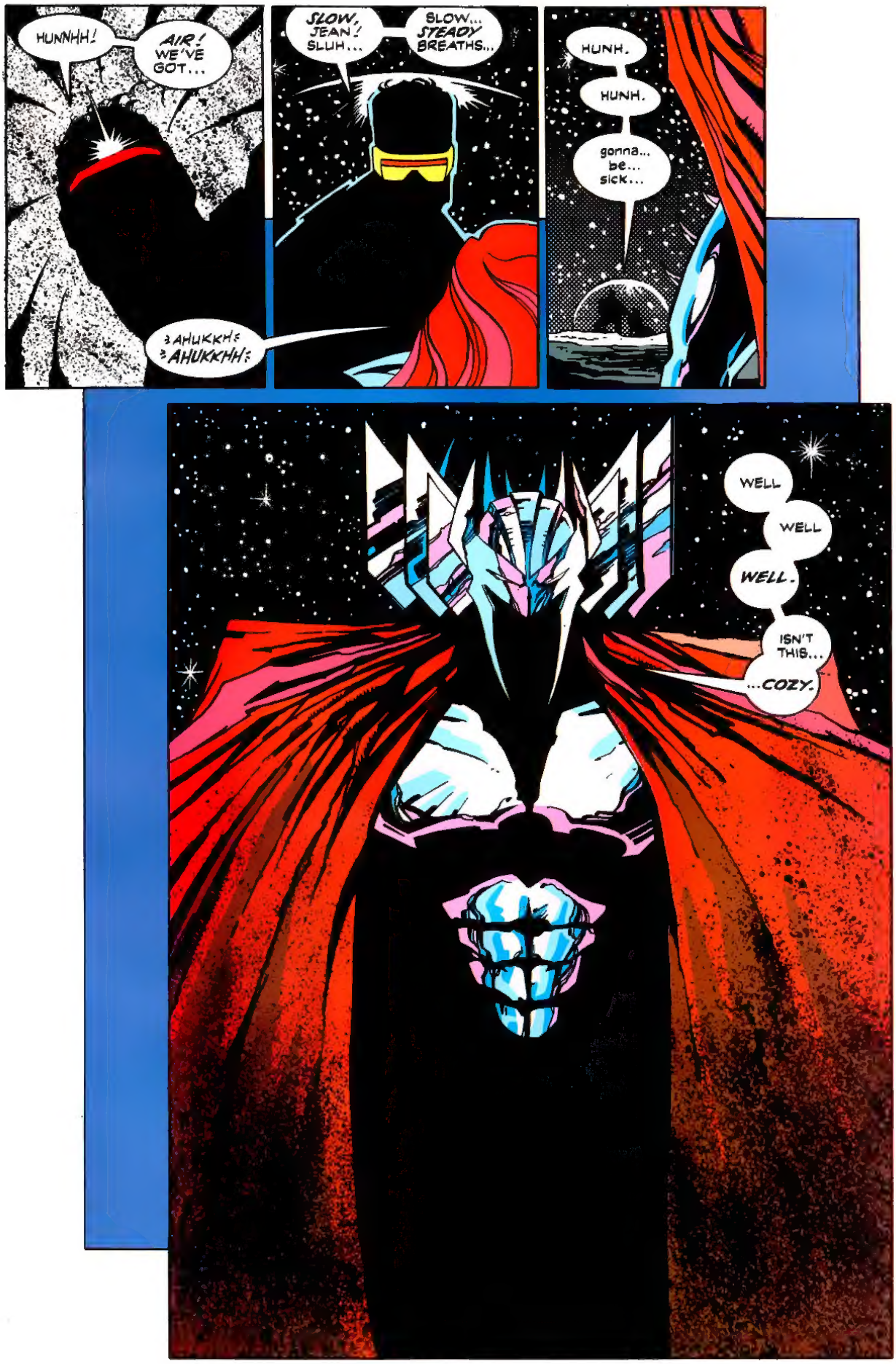

BUT I THINK SHE FINALLY MANAGED TO.
IT BARELY GOT TO ME, TO THE DEGREE WHERE MY SUBCONSCIOUS HAD TO LET ME KNOW I HAD AN INCOMING CALL.
SHE REACHED ME, INTENTIONALLY OR NOT, SINCE I'M THE ONE GUY, ASIDE FROM SCOTT, THAT SHE FELT CLOSEST TO.

AND JUST HOW CLOSE...
...IS "CLOSE"?

NEVER MIND THAT NOW.
WOLVERINE... ARE YOU PICKING UP ANYTHING ELSE THAT COULD POSSIBLY BE INTERPRETED AS A TELEPATHIC CALL FROM JEAN...
...CONSCIOUSLY, UNCONSCIOUSLY, OR OTHERWISE.

NO.
WHICH MIGHT MEAN NOTHING...
...OR EVERYTHING.


"THE WAY I SEE IT, THERE'S TWO POSSIBLE SCENARIOS. EITHER JEAN CAME TO, SENT A CRY FOR HELP, AND THEN PASSED OUT...
"...OR ELSE...AND THIS IS THE SCARIER ONE...
"...JEAN AND SCOTT BROKE OUT OF THE HQ, NOT REALIZING WHERE THEY WERE...
"...AND JEAN'S BROADCAST WAS A FEAR-BOOSTED SCREAM...
"...BECAUSE THEY'RE OUT ON THE MOON'S SURFACE FREEZING TO DEATH, AND SUFFOCATING.
"AND IF THAT'S THE CASE...
"...WE'LL NEVER REACH 'EM IN TIME."


HUNNHH!
AIR! WE'VE GOT...
AHUKKH!
AHUKKHH!
SLOW, JEAN! SLUH...
SLOW... STEADY BREATHS...
HUNH.
HUNH.
gonna... be... sick...
WELL
WELL
WELL.
ISN'T THIS...
...COZY.

STILL, IF THERE'S ANY SHOT AT ALL, WE GOTTA TAKE IT.
BISHOP, CABLE AND I ARE GOIN' TO HEAD TO THE MOON TO RESCUE SC--
YOU WILL DO NO SUCH THING.
I DO NOT WANT YOU HURLING YOURSELVES INTO WHATEVER DANGER AWAITS WITHOUT KNOWING THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

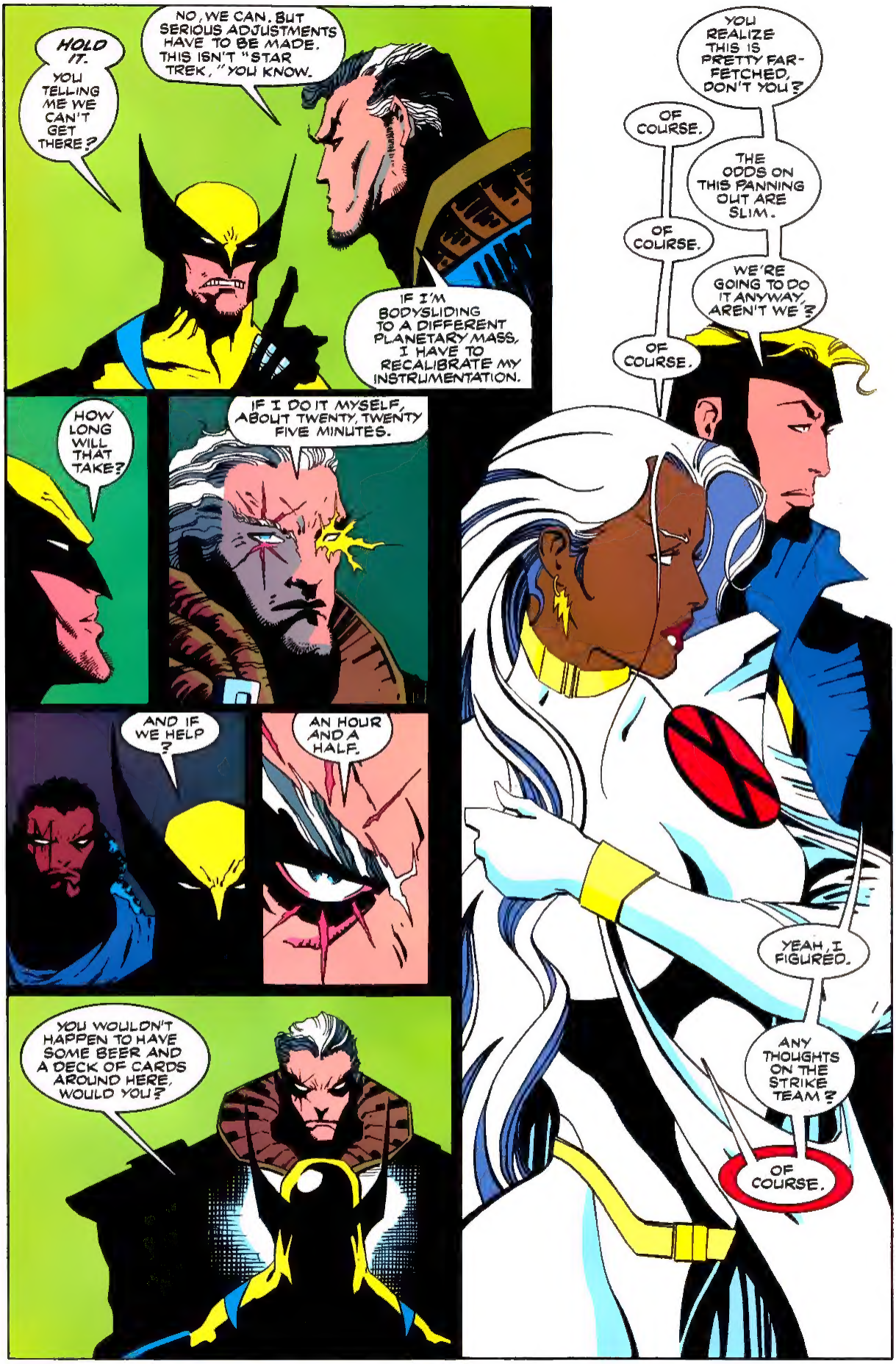
FORGET IT.
I'M NOT WALKING INTO THE LION'S DEN.
I'M INTERESTED IN CONFRONTING STRYFE, NOT RISK HAVING TO FIGHT MY WAY OUT OF AN X-STRONGHOLD.
AND IF YOU TWO TRY TO FORCE ME TO GO, THEN SOMEONE'S GOING TO GET HURT...

INSTEAD OF HAVING YOU AS AN ASSET, WE MIGHT HAVE TO RESCUE YOU AS WELL.
I WANT THE THREE OF YOU TO COME HERE, VIA WHATEVER TRANSPORT MEANS THAT CABLE HAS.
LIKE WHO?
LIKE ME, PROBABLY.
BUT THAT WON'T ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING. YOU NEED ME COOPERATIVE, NOT COMATOSE.

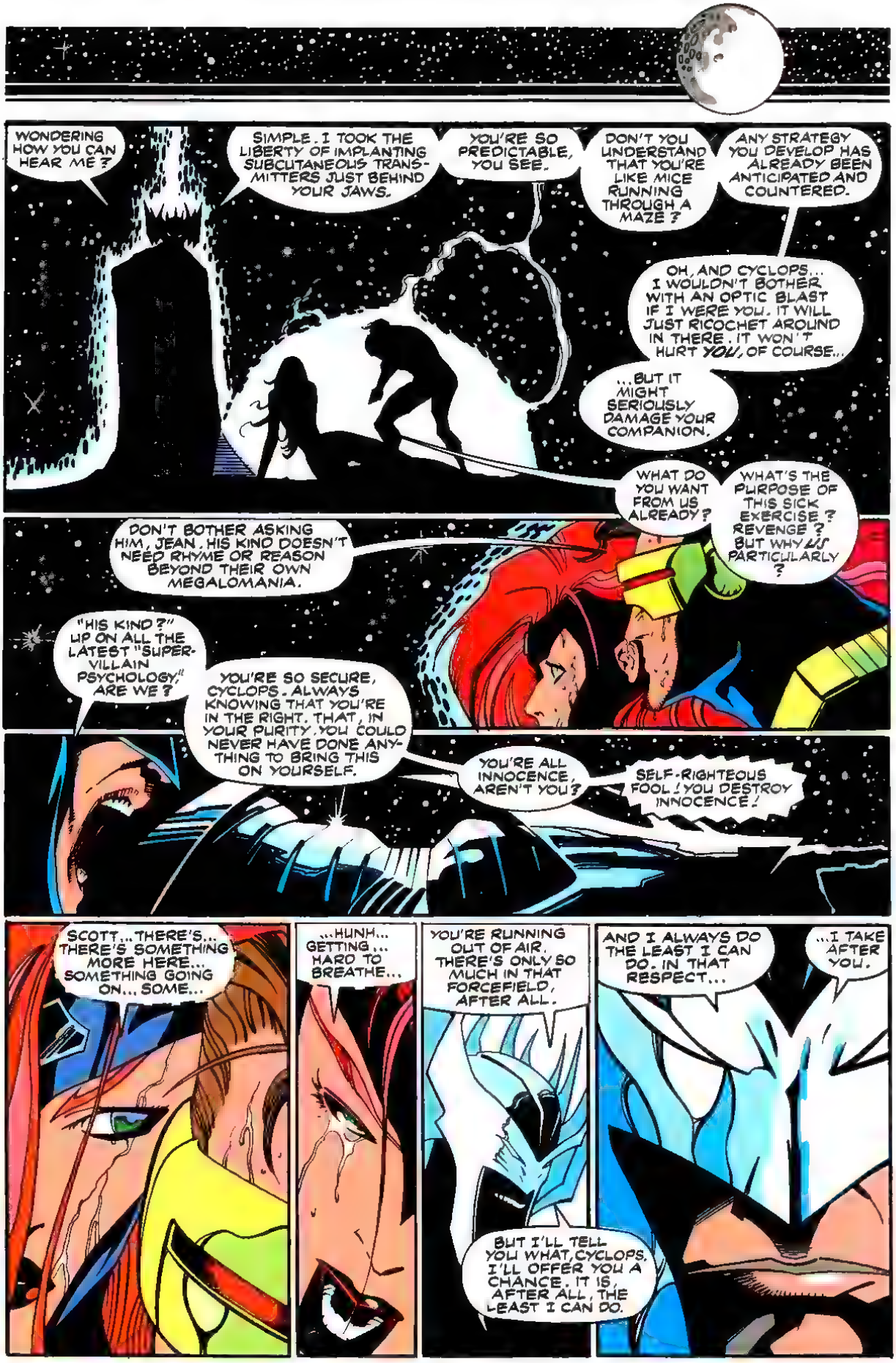
MAN MAKES SENSE. WE GOT A STANDOFF HERE, STORM...
...'LESS YOU WANT US TO TRY AND STRONG-ARM HIM. YOUR CALL.

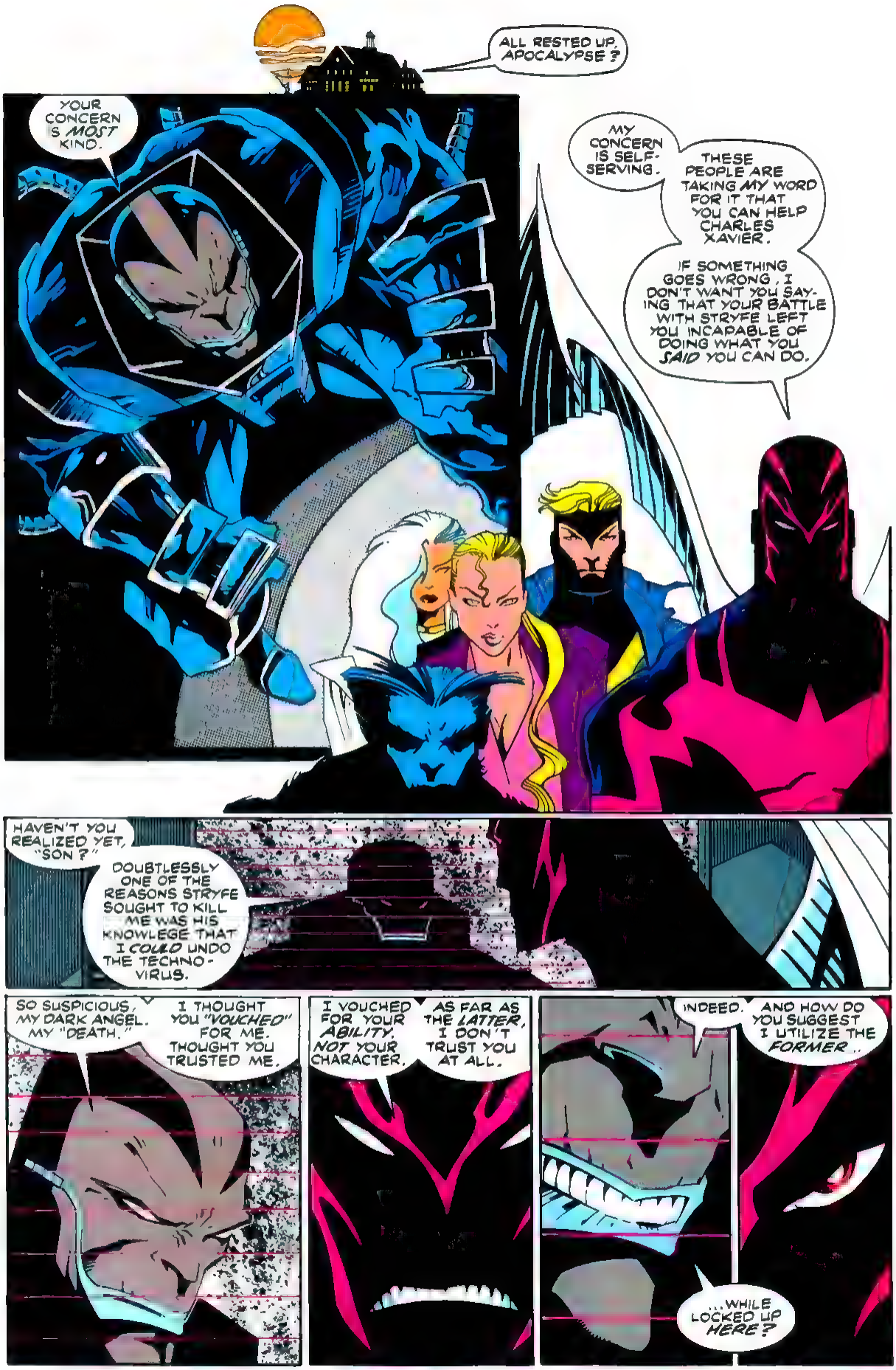
VERY WELL, WOLVERINE. DO AS HE SAYS WE WILL ARRANGE OUR OWN MODE OF TRANSPORTATION.
MANSION OUT.

GOOD THING SHE PASSED ON YOUR OFFER TO HEAD STRAIGHT TO THE MOON.
BODYSLIDING THERE ISN'T THE SAME AS BODYSLIDING TO EARTH.
THERE'S DIFFERENT GRAVIMETRIC FIELDS INVOLVED.
NOT TO MENTION PLANETARY--

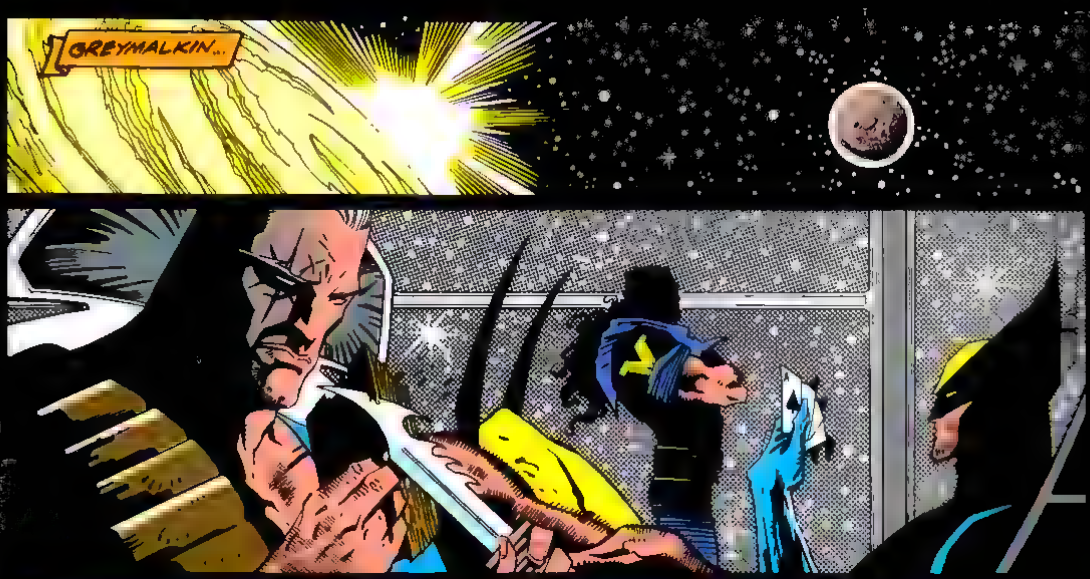

HOLD IT.
YOU TELLING ME WE CAN'T GET THERE?
NO, WE CAN. BUT SERIOUS ADJUSTMENTS HAVE TO BE MADE. THIS ISN'T "STAR TREK," YOU KNOW.
IF I'M BODYSLIDING TO A DIFFERENT PLANETARY MASS, I HAVE TO RECALIBRATE MY INSTRUMENTATION.
HOW LONG WILL THAT TAKE?
IF I DO IT MYSELF, ABOUT TWENTY, TWENTY FIVE MINUTES.
AND IF WE HELP?
AN HOUR AND A HALF.
YOU WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO HAVE SOME BEER AND A DECK OF CARDS AROUND HERE, WOULD YOU?
YOU REALIZE THIS IS PRETTY FAR-FETCHED, DON'T YOU?
OF COURSE.
THE ODDS ON THIS PANNING OUT ARE SLIM.
OF COURSE.
WE'RE GOING TO DO IT ANYWAY, AREN'T WE?
OF COURSE.
YEAH, I FIGURED.
ANY THOUGHTS ON THE STRIKE TEAM?
OF COURSE.

YOU'RE GOING TO GO, AREN'T YOU, ALEX?
IT'S SCOTT AND JEAN. NATURALLY I'M GOING.
AND WATCHING MY BACK, I'D LIKE TO HAVE PSYLOCKE...
GOOD.
...WARREN...
...BOBBY...
I'M THERE.
...LORNA...
WILD HORSES AND ALL THAT.
... SAM...
'PRECIATE THE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE.
AND YOU, OF COURSE, ORORO. THAT LINE-UP OKAY?
YOU READ MY MIND.
I HATE TO REMIND YOU PEOPLE OF THIS... BUT THE PROFESSOR STILL NEEDS HELP.
UNLESS WE'RE JUST PLANNING TO WRITE HIM OFF.
OF COURSE NOT, HANK. YOU KNOW BETTER.
COME ON. APOCALYPSE SHOULD BE SUFFICIENTLY RESTED BY NOW.
AND IF WE'VE GOT ANY HOPE AT ALL OF SAVING XAVIER, THEN IT RESTS WITH...
OH, HI. DON'T MIND US.
WE WEREN'T EAVES-DROPPING.
NOPE.
NOT US.
:SIGH: I CAN'T TAKE THEM ANYWHERE.


WONDERING HOW YOU CAN HEAR ME?
SIMPLE. I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF IMPLANTING SUBCUTANEOUS TRANSMITTERS JUST BEHIND YOUR JAWS.
YOU'RE SO PREDICTABLE, YOU SEE.
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND THAT YOU'RE LIKE MICE RUNNING THROUGH A MAZE?
ANY STRATEGY YOU DEVELOP HAS ALREADY BEEN ANTICIPATED AND COUNTERED.
OH, AND CYCLOPS... I WOULDN'T BOTHER WITH AN OPTIC BLAST IF I WERE YOU. IT WILL JUST RICOCHET AROUND IN THERE. IT WON'T HURT YOU, OF COURSE...
...BUT IT MIGHT SERIOUSLY DAMAGE YOUR COMPANION.
WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM US ALREADY?
WHAT'S THE PURPOSE OF THIS SICK EXERCISE? REVENGE? BUT WHY US PARTICULARLY?
DON'T BOTHER ASKING HIM, JEAN. HIS KIND DOESN'T NEED RHYME OR REASON BEYOND THEIR OWN MEGALOMANIA.
"HIS KIND?" UP ON ALL THE LATEST "SUPER-VILLAIN PSYCHOLOGY," ARE WE?
YOU'RE SO SECURE, CYCLOPS. ALWAYS KNOWING THAT YOU'RE IN THE RIGHT. THAT, IN YOUR PURITY, YOU COULD NEVER HAVE DONE ANYTHING TO BRING THIS ON YOURSELF.
YOU'RE ALL INNOCENCE, AREN'T YOU?
SELF-RIGHTEOUS FOOL! YOU DESTROY INNOCENCE!
SCOTT... THERE'S... THERE'S SOMETHING MORE HERE... SOMETHING GOING ON... SOME...
...HUNH... GETTING... HARD TO BREATHE...
YOU'RE RUNNING OUT OF AIR. THERE'S ONLY SO MUCH IN THAT FORCEFIELD, AFTER ALL.
BUT I'LL TELL YOU WHAT, CYCLOPS. I'LL OFFER YOU A CHANCE. IT IS, AFTER ALL, THE LEAST I CAN DO.
AND I ALWAYS DO THE LEAST I CAN DO. IN THAT RESPECT...
...I TAKE AFTER YOU.


ALL RESTED UP, APOCALYPSE ?
YOUR CONCERN IS MOST KIND.
MY CONCERN IS SELF-SERVING.
THESE PEOPLE ARE TAKING MY WORD FOR IT THAT YOU CAN HELP CHARLES XAVIER.
IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG, I DON'T WANT YOU SAYING THAT YOUR BATTLE WITH STRYFE LEFT YOU INCAPABLE OF DOING WHAT YOU SAID YOU CAN DO.
HAVEN'T YOU REALIZED YET, "SON ?"
DOUBTLESSLY ONE OF THE REASONS STRYFE SOUGHT TO KILL ME WAS HIS KNOWLEGE THAT I COULD UNDO THE TECHNO-VIRUS.
SO SUSPICIOUS, MY DARK ANGEL. MY "DEATH."
I THOUGHT YOU "VOUCHED" FOR ME. THOUGHT YOU TRUSTED ME.
I VOUCHED FOR YOUR ABILITY, NOT YOUR CHARACTER.
AS FAR AS THE LATTER, I DON'T TRUST YOU AT ALL.
INDEED.
AND HOW DO YOU SUGGEST I UTILIZE THE FORMER ..
...WHILE LOCKED UP HERE ?

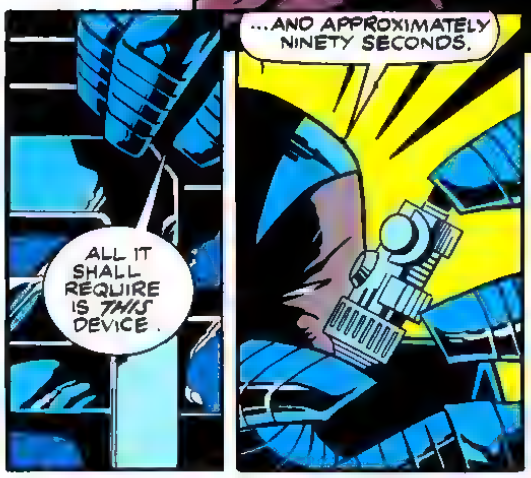
EVERYONE ELSE STAND BACK A WAYS.
IF HE TRIES ANYTHING, THE FIRST...
...AND LAST...
...THING HE ENCOUNTERS WILL BE ME.
THREATS
CONSIDER ME DULY INTIMIDATED.
JUST KEEP MOVING...
..."FATHER."
YO. ALEX.
C'MERE A SEC.
I THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW... I'VE LOST MENTAL CONTACT WITH MY DUPLICATE THAT WAS BABYSITTING THE X-PATRIOTS AT THE HOSPITAL.
OH, THAT'S JUST GREAT. IS HE OKAY, JAMIE?
YEAH, IF HE'D BEEN KILLED, I'D KNOW. HE MAY HAVE JUST FALLEN ASLEEP...
OR BEEN KNOCKED OUT. WELL, THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT NOW. THERE'S ONLY SO MANY FRONTS WE CAN HANDLE.
LOOK, IF THE X-PATRIOTS HAVE BOLTED, THEN HAVE YOUR DUPE MAKE DUPES AND START COMBING THE CITY...SOON AS HE COMES TO.
MAN, VAL'S GOING TO GO BALLISTIC WHEN SHE FINDS OUT.
AND SHE'S ALREADY STRUNG OUT--
SO DO HER A FAVOR. DON'T TELL HER.
I HAVE TO. HOW CAN I NOT--?
ALEX, WHAT'S GOING ON? IS THERE A PROBLEM?
UHH...
NO.
NO PROBLEM, VAL. NO PROBLEM AT ALL.

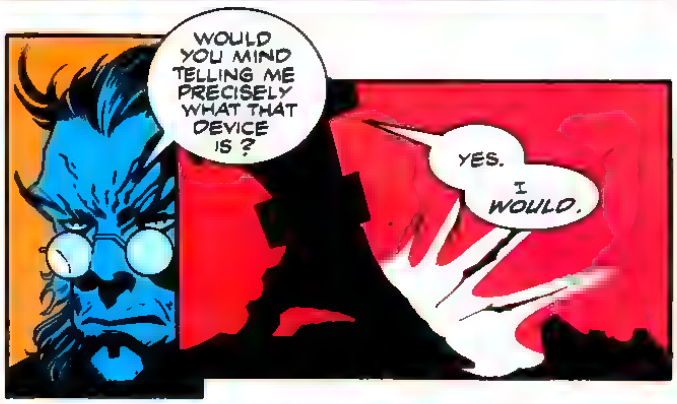

GREYMALKIN...

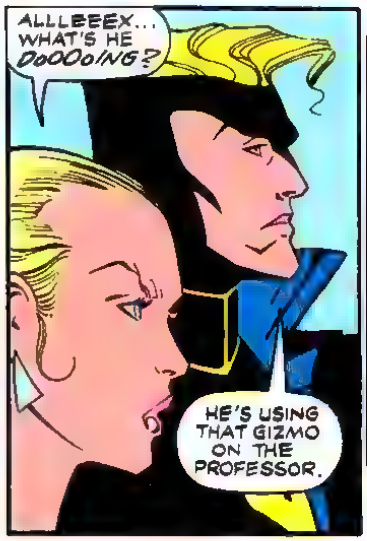
AND, BACK AT THE MANSION.
WELL, ARE YE GOING TO JUST STAND THERE AND LOOK MENACING? OR ARE YE GOING TO HELP HIM?
MERELY PLANNING MY STRATEGY, WOMAN. YOU WOULD NOT WANT ME TO RUSH INTO THIS WITHOUT SUFFICIENT MENTAL PREPARATION.
YOU WOULD NOT CARE ABOUT THE COST TO ME, OF COURSE. BUT IT WOULD HAVE FATAL CONSEQUENCES FOR XAVIER.

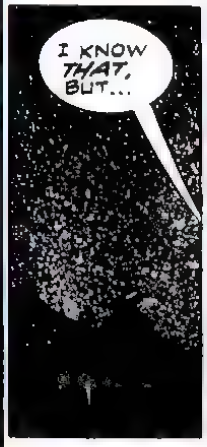
I SAY WE WATCH HIM LIKE A HAWK.
ALEX, I DO EVERYTHING LIKE A HAWK.

THE TECHNOVIRUS HAS COMPLETELY INVADED HIM. EVERYTHING FROM CARDIOVASCULAR TO NEURAL.
HE IS BEYOND MEDICAL HELP.
BUT CAN YOU HELP HIM?
OF COURSE.


ALL IT SHALL REQUIRE IS THIS DEVICE.
...AND APPROXIMATELY NINETY SECONDS.


WOULD YOU MIND TELLING ME PRECISELY WHAT THAT DEVICE IS?
YES. I WOULD.


ALLLEEEX... WHAT'S HE DoOOoING?
HE'S USING THAT GIZMO ON THE PROFESSOR.


I KNOW THAT, BUT...

UHH...
UHH...

DEAR GOD!

HE'S EXPUNGING THE VIRUS!
NO! HE'S...
HE'S MAKING IT WORSE! THE VIRUS IS COMPLETELY ENVELOPING XAVIER!
WARREN! MOVE! WE HAVE TO..
NO. LET HIM DO WHAT HE HAS TO.
HAVOK! WE'VE BEEN MAD! ARCHANGEL'S BEEN TAKEN OVER BY APOCALYPSE AGAIN!
HE'S OUT TO DESTROY XAVIER ONCE AND FOR ALL!

THE HOSPITAL...
WELL, TAYLOR, IT IT SEEMS AS IF YOUR FRIENDS, THE X-PATRIOTS, FINALLY DECIDED TO TAKE A BREAK.
GOOD. I WAS BENDING THE RULES FOR THEM, BUT FRANKLY, HAVING SO MANY VISITORS WAS...
TAYLOR?
WAIT A MINUTE! WHO ARE YOU?!
UHHH...
I SAID WHO ARE YOU?!
MUH... MULTIPLE MAN... I THINK...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? WHERE'S MY PATIENT? AND WHAT KIND OF NAME IS MULTIPLE...
THUD
...MAN?
GRAYMALKIN

THE MAN IN THE MOON..

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO TO SAVE YOUR LIVES IS *BEG* ME.

I WANT YOU TO BEG WITH *TEARS* STREAMING DOWN YOUR FACES. THE WAY THAT A *CHILD* WOULD PLEAD WITH HIS *PARENT*.

THE WAY THAT SOMEONE WITH *NO* HOPE, WITH *NO* SOURCE OF LOVE WOULD IMPLORE SOMEONE WHO IS THAT PERSON'S *LAST PRAYER*.

SAY THAT YOU WANT AND *NEED* ME. SAY THAT THERE'S NO ONE IN YOUR LIFE MORE IMPORTANT TO YOU RIGHT NOW THAN *ME*.

GO ON.

IT'S YOUR *ONLY* HOPE.

NEVER.

WE DON'T TRUST YOU. WE DON'T *WANT* YOUR HELP.

WE...WE'D RATHER *DIE*...

...then throw ourselves...

...on the...on the mercy of...

...someone like... *you*...

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE TALKING TO ?
GET UP.
COME ON. DON'T JUST LIE THERE.
LOOK AT ME.
LOOK AT WHAT DENIALS AND CRUELTY HAVE DONE TO ME.
LOOK ! I ORDER YOU !
I ORDER YOU!!

BULLPEN BULLETINS

MARVEL COMICS

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Hi, Heroes!

What good's a Soapbox if it isn't used to tell you things you didn't know? I'll bet few of you were aware that mighty Marvel's sensational sister company across the sea, Marvel Comics U.K. (U.K. standing for United Kingdom, of course) has taken the once-staid British populace by storm with the creation of a pulse-pounding plethora of startling new super heroes, featured in England's own cosmic collection of costumed crusaders — the now-legendary best-seller — OVERKILL!

But, since few True Believers are able to fly to England each fortnight to pick up the latest editions, your big-hearted Bullpen has solved the problem for you! We've arranged to ship most of Marvel U.K.'s titanic new titles to your favorite comicbook stores in America! No longer shall we underprivileged colonials be deprived of the mother country's harvest of heroes! And what a caravansary of cataclysmic characters they are! Just the briefest listing of their titles should give you an inkling of the wonderment in store ...

Zooming to the U.S. at the end of '92 you'll meet DEATH'S HEAD II, MOTOR-MOUTH & KILLPOWER, THE KNIGHTS OF PENDRAGON, DIGITEK, BATTLE-TIDE (the senses-staggering battle between Death's Head II and Killpower), WARHEADS, DARK ANGEL, TEAM HELIX, and NIGHTRAVEN!

But that's only the beginning of Britain's super hero invasion! Early in '93 don't miss the way-out wonderment of MYSTECH WARS, DEATH RATTLE, SHADOW RIDERS, BLOOD SEED, GENE MACHINE, WILD THING, BLACK-AXE, SUPER SOLDIERS, GUN RUNNER, DEATH METAL, and the mind-blasting mystery of — PLASMER!

Perhaps the most spectacular surprise of all is the fact that the entire kaboodle of British heroes meet, greet, and interact with your own favorites from Marvel U.S.A.! So don't be surprised to see Wolverine and Sabretooth pop up in Battletide's limited-series, or to find Warheads, Mephisto and the Silver Surfer sharing the same adventures! As always, the Marvel Universe is one and inseparable, so anything happening anywhere affects all else in our ever-constant, ever-changing cosmos!

'Tis with happy heart and cheerful mien that I bid thee adieu, buoyed by the knowledge that the incalculable power of this month's Soapbox has insured that thou shalt not miss the triumphant entry of Marvel U.K.'s horde of heroes to our grand and grateful shores!

Excelsior!

Stan

Stan Lee

Everybody's doin' it! No, we're not talking about hologram covers — we're talking about gettin' hitched. Takin' the plunge. Checkin' into the matrimonial institution. Doin' the marriage thing.

Lately there have been a rash of weddings among the editorial staff of Mighty Marvel — they've been popping up like zits on a New Warrior. Following in the footsteps of Reed and Sue ... Peter and Mary Jane .. Dr. Octopus and Aunt May .. many of our mighty Marveloids have decided to pursue lives of wedded bliss. Tieing the knot is a big commitment — it's like when Hercules quits his job as a solo hero and becomes an Avenger.

One editor who is solo no longer is Associate Editor **Evan Skolnick**, who this past July said "I do" to his own British import, **Lynn White**, after a whirlwind three month courtship. In addition to his recent nuptials, Evan was recently promoted to Associate Editor of such titles of ORIGINAL GHOST RIDER and MARVEL YEAR IN REVIEW. Sounds like he'll have quite a year of his own to review.

Evan's former boss, **Fabian Nicieza**, writer of NOMAD, last month gave up his life of wandering as he settled down and married his longtime sweetheart, **Tracey Lee**. It only took *twelve years* for Fabe to make that decision — that's one heck of a deadline! Fabe's brother, **Mariano**, of the Promotions Department, threw a blowout bachelor party for fabulous Fabe, which featured a special mega-entertaining slideshow of "The Lives and Time of Fabian." It was attended by many of the brightest and best guys (no girls allowed, natch) in the business.

Fabian's NOMAD editor **Glenn** "Helium" **Herdling** seems to have found religion. Not only is he writing PARAGON for our new religious comics line, but he also was made an honest man last month by his new bride, **Laura Eckhardt**. Glenn took his lady love up in a balloon, and popped the question — but not the balloon, fortunately. Glenn's proposal first appeared in comic book form in WHAT IF #31. Glenn presented Laura with a copy of the comic while up in the balloon, and she answered in the affirmative quicker than Tom DeFalco approving a new Thor series.

Still waiting for approval for that Quasar/Ren & Stimpy team-up is **Mark Gruenwald**, who also slipped the quantum band around the finger of his new bride, **Catherine Schuller**, last month. Performing at Mark's wedding was WOLVERINE writer **Larry Hama**'s band, the K-Otics! Mark and Catherine's wedding song was "One More Kiss," from the movie *Bladerunner*! (Now if only we could make a *replicant* of Mark, we could get twice as much work out of him!)

Bullpen cartoonist **Rick Parker**, still basking in the success of his best-selling book with **Barry Dutter**, *Everything I Really Need to Know I learned From Television*, also walked down the aisle last month with BARBIE writer **Lisa Trusiani** at a ceremony in Falmouth, Maine. The reception included a good old New England style clambake, and all the guests were treated to a cruise on lovely Casco Bay. Unfortunately, the Love Boat's Captain Stubing was unavailable to perform the wedding ceremony.

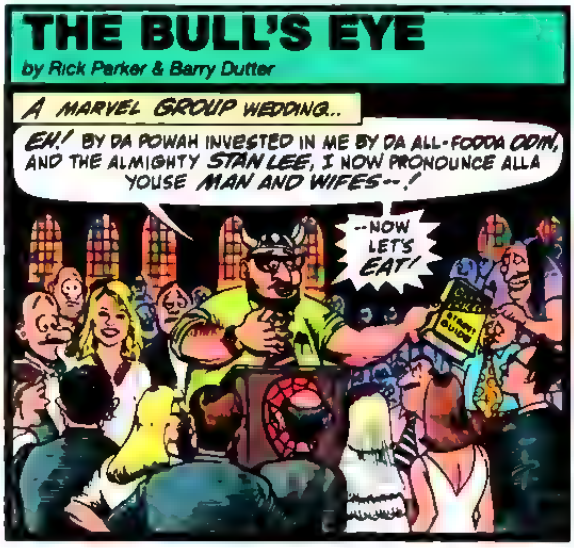
Sadly, Pin-Head of the Cenobites, doesn't do weddings, either. Pin-Head's boss, HELLRAISER editor **Marcus McLaurin**, is used to seeing souls torn apart over in the pages of that mag. But MM will take part in the joining of two souls when he exchanges vows with his intended, **Janet Paes**, next May. Marcus proposed to Janet on the Sky Ride at Disneyworld last January. Surely this wedding will be an Epic event, though hopefully not a harrowing one. (Or are we Barkering up the wrong tree?)

Finally, we come to HULK editor **Bobbie Chase**, whose gamma-irradiated nuptials will be taking place next June. **Craig Kunaschk**, of the Direct Sales Department, proposed to Bobbie at the top of a mountain in St.Maartin while the two were on vacation. It is hoped that their union will bring Marvel's editorial and sales departments closer together, and bring even greater unity to the Marvel family. Surely it won't be long before Bobbie and Craig will have little Midnight Sons and Daughters of their own running around all over the place.

Warmest wedding wishes to all our newlyweds! And remember the lesson learned by Spider-Man not so long ago: With great weddings come great catering bills!

THE BULL'S EYE

by Rick Parker & Barry Dutter



I'M BORED.
ME TOO.
LET'S GO.
WE'RE GONE.
THEY'RE GONE!
XAVIER AND APOCALYPSE! THE VIRUS SWALLOWED THEM BOTH!
WARREN-- YOU HAVE TWO SECONDS TO MOVE, OR--
--OR YOU'LL SCREW THINGS UP IS WHAT, ORORO.
NO OFFENSE.
WATCH.
WATCH WHAT? I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING!

THE OPERATION...
...IS OVER.
KRUNCH
IN CASE YOU'RE CURIOUS... I ACCELERATED THE VIRUS'S GROWTH BEYOND THE POINT WHERE IT COULD REPLICATE ITSELF PROPERLY.
IT FEEDS ON BIOLOGICAL MATTER, AND I STIMULATED IT SO RADICALLY THAT XAVIER BECAME INSUFFICIENT TO SUSTAIN IT.
SO IT SOUGHT OUT ADDITIONAL NOURISHMENT, AND FOUND ME TO BE SOMEWHAT... UNPALATABLE.
YOU COULD HAVE TOLD US YOU WERE PLANNING TO DESTROY IT WITH TERMINAL INDIGESTION.
AS DO WE ALL.
TRUE. BUT I HAD NO DESIRE TO.
LET HIM SLEEP FOR A TIME. HE WILL BE FINE ONCE HE AWAKENS.
APOCALYPSE... THANK YOU. YOU HAVE MY... OUR... GRATITUDE... IF NOT OUR TRUST. NOW... WE HAVE TO GET TO JEAN AND SCOTT.
THIS IS NOT A PROBLEM. I HAVE A VESSEL CAPABLE OF SUCH A JOURNEY.
THEN I AM AGAIN IN YOUR DEBT.
BUT WE HAVE TO GET THERE QUICKLY...

"... BECAUSE WOLVERINE AND BISHOP ALONE ARE ALREADY A HOT-HEADED, SELF-CONFIDENT COM-BINATION.
"WORKING WITH CABLE, I THINK THEY WILL WANT TO TAKE MATTERS INTO THEIR OWN HANDS BY GOING ON AHEAD TO THE MOON."
ALL RIGHT. I'VE LANDED US IN SOME SORT OF STORAGE FACILITY. SUGGESTIONS, LOGAN?
SUBTLETY. AVOID FIGHTING IF WE CAN. SNEAK IN, FIND CYKE AND JEAN, SNEAK OUT.
IF WE'RE LUCKY, NO ONE WILL EVEN NOTICE US.
UHM... GUYS...
...WE'VE HIT A SNAG.
NEXT:
"THE X-CUTIONER'S SONG" WRAPS UP IN X-FORCE #18. BE THERE FOR THE CATACLYSMIC CONCLUSION! THEN BE BACK HERE FOR #87 AS WE REVEAL: GUIDO'S SECRET ORIGIN! POLARIS'S NEW COSTUME! RAHNE'S DEEPEST FANTASIES! A SURPRISING GUEST STAR! THE DEBUT OF NEW ARTIST JOE QUESADA! ALL THIS AND MORE IN THE MOST UNUSUAL ISSUE EVER:
X-AMINATIONS!

KELLY CORVESE: editor — JAYE GARDNER: assistant editor
BOB HARRAS: group editor

X-CHANGES

% *MARVEL COMICS GROUP — 387 Park Avenue South — New York, New York — 10016*
Attention correspondents: if you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Jae Lee, we're gonna miss ya here at "Factor Central." Thanks for making X-Factor's role in the "X-cutioner's Song" so fabulous!

And now on behalf of the entire creative team of X-FACTOR, we'd like to extend a warm "Hi!" and "How-do-you-do!" to Mr. Joe Quesada, who's our new regular penciller. Joe is bringing a powerful new look to X-FACTOR that's gonna knock your socks off! So tell all your friends because the combined talents of writing sensation, Peter David, and relative newcomer, Joe Quesada, will make X-FACTOR one of the hottest comics around!!!

Kelly

Dear X-Folk,

So here I am reading the first part of "X-cutioner's Song," and I am thoroughly enjoying it, hoping Professor Xavier survives, and I'm thinking, "Cable shoots the good prof. and by coincidence his computer mentor is named Professor." Okay, fine coincidence, right? Part II comes along, we find out that what the professor was shot with was some kind of "technovirus," and I say to myself, "Something like this has been done before!" Research, research, research. Okay, Scott and Madelyne's kid had it back in X-FACTOR #68. So I look to see just who it was that told us that the Professor had the virus, hoping that that person would have a link to the kid. Nope, Jamie spills the beans, and there is no way to link Jamie to young Nathan. Nathan, Nathan... where have I heard that name before. Okay, so here we are--little Nathan gets sent to the future to be cured of his technovirus. Along comes a new character from the future (?) who happens to be half machine. Possibly the results of the technovirus? And whose name is Nathan? Link-up Cable and Nathan Summers! So it could be another coincidence, right? But whoa! Lookie here, back in X-FACTOR #68, On the last page, we've got a lovely tribute supposedly to say goodbye to Nathan. But who is that to the left of the child–Cable!!! You guys really do plan your storylines way too far in advance. I mean you even put Mr. Sinister on that page, and ta-dah, here he is in the "X-cutioner's Song" as well.

The rest of this crossover really promises to be a landmark in X-lore. Chances are we'll find out the truth about Cable, and it seems that you could even start showing us just exactly who Gambit really is. The only question I really have left is regarding Stryfe's resemblance to Mr. Cable. Granted this might be addressed in the CABLE limited series, but I can only guess that Mr. Sinister and his "cloning" hobby had something to do with it.

Harry Slomovits
162 S. Formosa Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90036

First of all, Jamie did not announce Professor X's contagion, it was Archangel--disguised by the electronic wizardry of his image inducer. Next on the agenda: Cable! Since his first appearance, Cable has been shrouded in mystery, and we have been bombarded with millions of questions as to his origins. Although we have by no means revealed his origins, we think that by the end of "X-cutioner's Song," you'll have answers to quite a few of your questions, Harry!

Dear Sirs,

I am very tempted to begin this letter with "fantastic" or something to the same extent, but I'll abstain, since I usually abhor letters of that nature. Let's just say I was more than duly impressed with X-Factor #84, and let's leave it at that, shall we?

I have greatly enjoyed Jae Lee's tenure on NAMOR, and his work here is no exception. His abstractive point of view and excessive use of shadow adds a dark provocative edge to the characters Warpath phenomenon–they both grew ten times their normal size.

Plot-wise, Peter did a fine job handling the first X-Factor/X-Force meeting. I particularly found the tension between Feral and Wolfsbane interesting. These are two characters I never cared for, so naturally I was hoping they would kill each other. But, alas, 'twas not meant to be. I also enjoyed the interaction between Quicksilver and Shatterstar. Character-wise, they could be flip sides of the same coin, and keeping this in mind, one could complain that the mutual dislike displayed, would go against set characterizations. But I hold that it enforced the notion that they were both alike more than they cared to admit. All in all, this was a very enjoyable issue, which is a lot more than can be said for most crossover tie-ins!

Marson Fedrick
Ellisville, MS 39437

The "cat & dog" fight scene between Feral and Wolfsbane was a natural we've all been waiting for, and we couldn't let our readers down, now could we? As for Quicksilver and Shatterstar, although there are some similarities between them, the generation gap that exists between them will probably keep them from becoming "buds."

Dear X-Changes,

Despite all the hype, the polybags, and the nifty trading cards, "X-cutioner's Song" has been very entertaining thus far. I enjoyed X-FACTOR #84 mostly for Jae Lee's breathtaking art, but the story had its fair share of surprises too!

Highlights of this issue included Rahne's reunion with Cannonball, Rahne versus Feral, and Jae Lee's interpretation of X-Force. I sincerely hope that Mr. Lee will continue to pencil the remaining two X-FACTOR installments of "X-cutioner's Song."

While I'm looking forward to the next few installments, it's fairly obvious that Cable is not the real culprit behind Xavier's shooting. Anyone in their right mind will immediately realize that the assassin is none other than Cable's doppleganger–Stryfe! Right?

Mike Farmer
8745 Lake Glen Court
Alpharetta, GA 30202

Right!

Dear X-People,

I have just finished reading the first four parts of the "X-cutioner's Song," and I have to say that I haven't read anything that comes close, as far as excitement is concerned, even the Muir Island saga doesn't touch it. The battles between the various X-teams have been perfectly drawn by the various artists, my favorite of which has been Jae Lee. His dark art has added a feeling of morbidity to the normally lighthearted pages of X-Factor–this makes for an interesting change.

The mystery of Cable is obviously tied in with the "X-cutioner's Song" plotline, and a confrontation with Stryfe seems inevitable. With all of these plotlines going in different directions it becomes difficult to keep up with what is actually going on. However, I feel that I have figured out a rather interesting fact... wait for it... I believe that Cable is actually the son of Cyclops! You may think that I am crazy, but a couple of facts do support my claim:

1) Cyclop's son is Nathan Summers, and we all know who shares that name–Cable!

2) Nathan was afflicted with a technovirus. Cable is known to have mechanical parts underneath his artificial skin!

3) Cyclop's son was whisked away to the future, and Cable is from the future!

When you take a look at the facts there is quite a fair bit of evidence to substantiate this claim. Is there any truth in it? Something to bear in mind, I suppose.

Kenji Crompton
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England